

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. NMT-002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Forde et al. CONFIRMATION NO.: 4305  
SERIAL NO.: 09/977,971 GROUP NO.: 3732  
FILING DATE: October 17, 2001 EXAMINER: V. Bui  
TITLE: Over-the-Wire Interlock Attachment/Detachment Mechanism

FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED  
APR 23 2004  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER H3700

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby make of record the references listed on the accompanying PTO Form 1449 for consideration by the Examiner in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application. Copies of the references are enclosed.

REMARKS

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and 1.98, this statement is being filed (CHECK ONE):

- ☐ (1) within three (3) months of the **Filing Date** or before the mailing date of the **First Office Action** on the merits; or
- ☒ (2) after the period defined in (1) but before the mailing date of a **Final Rejection** or **Notice of Allowance**, and
- ☐ the requisite Statement is below, **OR**
- ☒ the requisite fee under Rule 1.17(p), namely **\$180.00**, is included herein, or
- ☐ (3) after the mailing date of a **Final Rejection** or **Notice of Allowance** but before the payment of the **Issue Fee**, **AND**
- ☐ Applicant hereby Petitions the Commissioner to accept and consider the attached Information Disclosure Statement, **AND**
- ☐ the requisite Statement is below, **AND**

- ☐ the requisite Statement is below, **AND**  
☐ the requisite petition fee due under Rule 1.17(i)(I), namely **\$130.00** is included herein.

It is respectfully requested that each of the references shown on the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

### STATEMENT

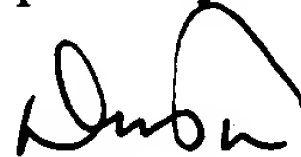
As required under §1.97(e), Applicants, through the undersigned, hereby state either that [check the appropriate space]:

- ☐ 1. [E]ach item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application **not more than** three months prior to the filing date of the Information Disclosure Statement; or
- ☐ 2. [N]o item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and to the knowledge of the person signing this Statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to **any** individual designated in §1.56(c) **more than** three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

### FEE AUTHORIZATION

Should any fee associated with the submission of this paper not be attached hereto as a check, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the missing fee to our Deposit Account, No. 20-0531. Any overpayments should be credited to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Duan Wu  
Attorney for Applicant  
Testa, Hurwitz, & Thibault, LLP  
High Street Tower  
125 High Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Date: April 16, 2004  
Reg. No. Limited Recognition

Tel. No.: (617) 248-7808  
Fax No.: (617) 248-7100



SHEET 1 OF 1

<b>FORM PTO - 1449</b>				<b>ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: NMT-002</b>					
<b>FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>				<b>APPLICANTS:</b> Forde et al.					
				<b>SERIAL NO.:</b> 09/977,971					
				<b>FILING DATE:</b> October 17, 2001		<b>GROUP:</b> 3732			
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>									
<b>EXAM. INIT.</b>		<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUB CLASS</b>	<b>FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE</b>		
	A29	6,623,518 B2	9/23/03	Thompson et al.					
	A30	2002/0120323 A1	8/29/02	Thompson et al.					
	A31	2002/0120322 A1	8/29/02	Thompson et al.					
	A32	5,951,564	9/14/99	Schroder et al.					
	A33	5,702,421	12/31/97	Schneidt					
	A34	5,407,243	4/18/95	Riemann					
	A35	5,133,721	7/28/92	Angulo					
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>									
<b>EXAM. INIT.</b>		<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COUNTRY CODE</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUB CLASS</b>	<b>FILING DATE</b>	<b>ABSTRACT ONLY</b>	<b>ENGLISH LANG (Y/N)</b>
	B2	709 732	8/25/41	DE					
	B3	WO 02/032496 (PCT/US01/32184) with International Search Report	4/25/02	PCT					
<b>OTHER ART, JOURNAL ARTICLES, ETC.</b>									
<b>EXAM. INIT.</b>	<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS: (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication)</b>								
	C1	International Search Report for PCT/US03/07911 dated March 15, 2002.							
<b>EXAMINER</b>					<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>				

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